Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident Response
Unified Command Data Summary Fact Sheet
E 52nd Street, Maywood CA
September 6, 2016

Overview of Fire

This document is for owners and residents of the properties evacuated following the June 14, 2016 fire at the metal recycling facility located at 3570 Fruitland Ave. The fire produced fumes, smoke, particulates (such as dust) and debris (large pieces of material) that were released into the air and settled on the ground of nearby properties.

The safety of your home and property (indoors and outdoors) has been assessed by experts to determine whether your home and/or property needed cleaning. Your home and property was also assessed to make sure that the cleaning was effective. This document provides information about the assessment and cleaning that took place inside and outside your home.

The Unified Command (UC) for the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident led the response operations and assessment of hazardous materials in the aftermath of the fire. The Unified Command was comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD).

Air Sampling during and after the Fire

Air samples were taken during firefighting operations by both the South Coast Air Quality Management District and by EPA. Air monitoring was also conducted in multiple locations around the facility. The air was monitored for particulates and air samples were analyzed for metals, to determine whether the air was safe for residents, local business employees and response personnel in the area to breathe. During the fire, the residential and industrial area around the facility was evacuated because metals and particulates were detected in the air. After the fire, the air quality improved within a few days, so it was safe for workers and residents in the area to return.

Air monitoring continued every day while work was ongoing to evaluate the impact of cleanup

operations on air quality and ensure that the air was safe for workers and residents in the area to breathe.

Sampling at Residential Properties

Before Assessment Work

Prior to entering your property to conduct any assessments or sampling, members of the Unified Command team obtained access agreements from the resident or property owner and explained the process of collecting samples. ***Attachment 1: Outdoor Checklist Signatures*** has the signatures and dates that the access agreement and various outdoor assessments were conducted.

Outside your home

Each outdoor space on E 52nd Street, including the property around your residence, was evaluated for the presence of ash and debris from the fire. A visual inspection of each parcel was conducted and documented by the Ash Cleanup and Assessment Team (ACAT). Because of the ash and debris found, the following measures were taken to clean the outside of your property:

- Industrial, high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum trucks removed visible ash and debris from roofs, outside walls, concrete areas, patios and other hard surfaces, lawns, plants, and exposed soil.
- Smaller items like outdoor furniture, tools, toys, and bikes were rinsed with clean water in a plastic enclosure to remove any ash and debris.
- Contaminated water was collected for disposal. Larger pieces of debris were removed by-hand by work crews.
- In order to protect your home from dust and debris during cleaning operations outside, openings—such as windows and doors— were sealed with plastic.

Once the outdoor cleanup was completed, the ACAT conducted another inspection, to ensure that ash and debris had been removed. Once the outdoor area passed the inspection, the three agencies in the Unified Command were requested to review the area and sign off with their approval.

Soil samples were collected in your front and back yard (if there was soil in those areas) to determine whether ash and runoff from the fire had contaminated the soils with metals. Soil samples were analyzed at a laboratory using a standard analysis protocol for 22 different metals: aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, potassium, selenium, sodium, thallium, vanadium, and zinc. The concentrations of these metals found in the soil around your residence were not a health concern and therefore no soil removal was needed. ***See***

Attachment 3A: Soil Sampling Results for the results from your home. An explanation of the toxic effects of each of these metals has also been provided in this package. ***See Attachment 2: Metals Information*** *for more details on the metals of concern and their potential health effects.*

Inside your home

Samples collected in your home were analyzed at a laboratory using the same standard analysis protocol for 22 different metals mentioned above. However, the only metals found in the ash from the fire that were at levels of concern were: chromium, copper, magnesium, and zinc. Therefore, those metals, were the ones focused on to ensure that your home was safe for re-occupancy. These four metals were identified as the 'metals of concern'.

Indoor air was tested by placing sampling pumps inside the home for a period of approximately 4 hours. Fans were used to stir up any dust and ash that could be present – to better simulate living conditions and to increase the likelihood that settled dust would be detected. The material in the air was pumped through filters placed at two different breathing zone heights: one for children and the other for adults. The samples were analyzed, and your results along with the screening level are provided in ***Attachment 3B: Indoor Air Sampling Results.***

For homes that had indoor air tests **below** the screening level for the metals of concern, additional testing for dust on floor surfaces was done to confirm that contaminants from the fire did not impact the interior of the residence. A specialized "micro-vacuum" designed to suction very small particles was used to collect dust onto a filter that was analyzed for the same group of metals. Dust from the floors was vacuumed in five places in your home, and collected as the sample. Small children spend much of their time on the floor playing, so anything in the carpets can get on their hands or toys, and into their mouths. The locations chosen to be vacuumed were in high traffic areas or near open windows or doors, in order to have the best chance to find any ash that could have entered the home. The results of the dust sampling are in ***Appendix 3C: Dust Sampling Results.***

For homes with either air or dust sample results that were **above** the indoor screening level for the metals of concern, a professional cleaning was conducted. Prior to cleaning, the company conducted photographic documentation of the indoor areas. The indoor cleaning included:

- Vacuuming and wiping with soap/water? Interior surfaces: walls, countertops; carpets and floors;
- Contents: bedding and clothing *(taken offsite for professional cleaning)*; draperies and window coverings; furniture; electronics; kitchen items; and other items;
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems (where present).

Following indoor cleaning, the air and dust samples discussed above were collected and tested to ensure that contamination was addressed with the cleaning. Those results are also included

in **Attachments 3B and 3C**. For those homes that had professional indoor cleaning, ***Attachment 6: ServPro Report*** has a summary of the work conducted in your home along with photo documentation.

Re-occupancy

Unified Command used the sampling results from indoor air and dust samples, and compared the results to the action levels for the four metals of concern—chromium, copper, magnesium and zinc. The action levels are very conservative and protective of health for all residents, including children. For outdoor residential areas, after passing the visual inspection conducted by the Ash Cleanup and Assessment Teams (ACAT), each of the agencies in the UC reviewed the work and provided their approval. Once UC was satisfied that both the indoor and outdoor areas for each residence met the established cleanup requirements, a re-occupancy recommendation was made. ***Attachment 5: Photo Documentation*** has before and after photos taken of the outside areas as well as photos of sampling locations inside your home.

The recommendation that a residence was suitable for re-occupancy was made to the Los Angeles County Health Officer. The decision authority for re-occupancy rests with the Health Officer. Once the Health Officer determined that a residence was approved for re-occupancy, the residents were notified. See ***Attachment 4: Health Officer Re-occupancy Determination***

Re-Entry process

Each household was notified once the Health Officer determined that their residence was approved for re-occupancy. A representative from the Community Relations Team set up an appointment to provide a walk-through for each residence, explaining what was done on the property. The resident(s) that attended the appointment for re-entry was shown the preliminary results of the indoor air sampling, and was requested to sign the Outdoor Checklist, to document that they had been informed of the actions taken at their residence.

Contact Information

As the cleanup activities continue on the property where the fire took place, every effort will be made to ensure that dust and ash do not re-enter your neighborhood. Occasionally, you may notice burned metal and other fire debris odors, depending on weather conditions. Please report odors to the South Coast Air Monitoring District at 1-800-CUT-SMOG. If you have any health concerns, please contact LA County Public Health at 213.738.3220. For questions about the facility cleanup, you can speak with EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Carlin Hafiz, at 213.244.1814 or hafiz.carlin@epa.gov. (Spanish version contact for EPA- Para preguntas acerca de la limpieza de la instalación en sí, puede hablar con el Coordinador de Participación Comunitaria de la EPA, Alejandro Diaz, al 415.972.3242 o diaz.alejandro@epa.gov)